

HIGH WYCOMBE OBSERVER

Gardner's
SALE
LAST FEW DAYS

BLUES SO NEAR TO SHOCK CUP WIN—BACK PAGE

Wycombe youth found hanged

A VERDICT of suicide was recorded at a Wycombe inquest this week on a local youth who was found hanging from a tree after being missing from home for seven days. He was Paul Michael Savage, aged 17, of Amersham Hill Gardens, High Wycombe. The body was discovered on Saturday by Mr Backhurst, of Amersham Hill, after a police search.



OH HAPPY WANDERERS!

No waiting extended

The extension of the double-yellow "no parking" lines in Heath End Road, Flackwell Heath has been delayed by the HMSO printers' strike (notice could not be posted in the Government's official gazette).

However, the dispute is now settled, and notice has been given.

It is expected that the lining work will be performed this month.

On Target Quiz at Bourne End

This month's "On Target" quiz at the Bourne End Community centre was won hands down by the St Marks Team.

Bob Howell, the Rev Don Rydings, Stan Peasley, and Rod Taylor faced the Girl Guides team after the latter had beaten the W.I. ladies.

Last-minute defeat after triumphant replay

THE GOAL scored one minute from time put paid to Wycombe's FA Cup hopes after a brave display against 1st Division Middlesbrough in their third round replay at Ayresome Park, on Tuesday.

David Armstrong was the man who broke the deadlock when the match looked as though it was going into extra time.

Tumultuous applause

But the Blues came off the field to a tumultuous reception from the 30,000 crowd who had seen their side shattered by a magnificent rear-guard display.

Skipper Alan Phillips again had a fine match at the centre of the Wanderers' defence.

Howard Kennedy gave the Boro something to think about with a 30 yards shot that forced a diving save from Him Platt.

John Maskell made several fine saves including one from the first

real shot from Middlesbrough could muster a 25 yards volley from Scottish international Graeme Souness.

Champagne

After the game Boro boss Jack Charlton was filled with praise for Wycombe and sent champagne down to their dressing room.

Now his side have landed a "plum" in the 4th round with the sure sell-out home tie with Wearside neighbours, Sunderland.

Wycombe manager Brian Lee, who had forecast a big win for Middlesbrough in the replay, said: "We did ourselves justice and I was proud of our performance."

"Now Middlesbrough can repay us by going all the way to the final — they have sufficient character to do it."

The Wycombe team — showing no changes from Saturday's match — flew up to Teesside Airport on the night before the match.

After rising from their hotel beds next morning they had a session with Brian Lee on Middlesbrough's training ground.

Now that the dust has settled, and after VAT has been deducted Wycombe can expect to bank about £10,500 as their share of the "gates" from both matches. It will be interesting to see if their Cup exploits have whetted the appetite of football fans in the Wycombe area.

This Saturday sees the return of the bread



and butter Rothmans Isthmian League football, with an away match against near neighbours Oxford

City. Wycombe are still in with an outside chance of repeating league title success.

MIDDLESBOROUGH'S Mick Mills tears for goal with full-back Paul Birdseye in hot pursuit.

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BLUES CAME SO NEAR TO SHOCK CUP WIN!

DEATHS

HOBBS, Lottie M. of Mayfield, Maple Rise, Marlow. Dear wife of the late Edwin William Hobbs and mother to Sheila, Edwin and Edward. Died peacefully Christmas eve, December 24, 1974 at Blagrave hospital, Tilehurst, Reading. Burial took place at Urchfont parish church, Wiltshire.

READ, Phyllis Edna. Late of Victoria Court, Marlow. Died suddenly on December 28 at Bromborough, Wirral.

HARTLEY: George Stanley Hartley, 43, of 133 Marlow Bottom Road, in hospital on December 27. The funeral was at the Chilterns Crematorium on January 3.

PRICE: Gilbert Price, 73, of 26 Sandgate Close, Marlow, in hospital on December 31. The funeral was at Holy Trinity Church on January 4, followed by burial in Marlow Cemetery.

GIDLEY: Mrs Katherine Mary Gidley, of "Lavington", Gore Road, Burnham, on January 2. The funeral was at Burnham Church.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS came within an ace of pulling off the greatest triumph in their 90-year history when First Division giants Middlesbrough visited Loakes Park on Saturday in the third round of the FA Cup.

Sharing top league place with Ipswich, the Teessiders were lucky to get away with a 0-0 draw against the Rothmans Isthmian League champions. This was readily admitted after the match by their manager Jack Charlton.

"We've never stopped smiling since the end of the game," was his tongue-in-cheek comment.

"We never really deserved the draw," said Boro's chief before his team whizzed back in their coach to the north-east — and the Tuesday replay at Ayresome Park.

The match had captured nationwide interest ever since Wycombe had won the replay of their second round tie away at Third Division AFC Bournemouth.

Wycombe team manager Brian Lee, who is director of the national sports centre at Bisham Abbey, had been quoted as saying

that his team would do well to lose by three or four goals.

That could have been meant to take the pressure off his own players — though he admitted that he just could not see any weaknesses in the Middlesbrough team.

The previous weekend, Wycombe's boss was up in Liverpool to "spy" on his cup opponents in their 1-1 draw at Everton.

Blues veteran Tony Horsman managed to beat a line of Boro defenders in the 28th minute but Perrin, following through, was judged to be offside as his shot hit the post.

One of Wycombe's back-four stars, Alan Phillips, had Blues fans gasping when he sliced a cross from Foggon but Peter Brine shot over the top.

It was the only slip the Wycombe skipper made throughout the match — and the last clear chance the Teessiders had for the rest of the match.

Just before half-time, a chance went begging at the other end when Micky Hollifield crossed after a good through ball by Horsman.

But it went right across the six-yard box with no Blues or Boro player getting a touch.

They were obviously missing the experience of former Glasgow Celtic star Bobby Murdoch who was missing the match because of a two-week suspension.

Within a minute of the restart, Kennedy put in a good shot from a pass by Horsman.

Rattled

Then Perrin went close after a good run and cross by Hollifield, playing with no obvious effects from a lightweight plaster on his fractured wrist.

In the 56th minute Kennedy missed his shot after a Terry Reardon free-kick. Then the midfielder man put a corner behind, with chants of "Easy, easy" ringing the ground as Wycombe piled on the pressure.

Middlesbrough were looking a rattled side. Graeme Souness and Foggon were quickly picked up for free-kicks, and from the third in as many minutes skipper Phillips went narrowly wide with a flying header as he went up to meet Reardon's kick.

Boro defenders were making wild clearances as they fought to keep their heads above water — in complete contrast to Keith Mead who showed cucumber coolness when passing back to Maskell with England Under-23 star David Mills breathing down his neck.

Yet more pressure on the Teessiders' goal, with Platt first winning a free-kick after a too-energetic thrust by several Blues men rushing in to score from Kennedy's corner, and then having to rush out of his area to kick clear from Perrin.



With ten minutes to go, Middlesbrough brought off an ineffective Fogg for former England Youth international Alan Willey. Within minutes the substitute nearly put his team out of their misery but Maskell managed to paw the ball away as he dived at the forward's feet.

Dylan Evans substituted for Horsman with just 90 seconds to go — Brian Lee was probably saving him from the expected invasion at the end of the match!

"Bodger" came off to a terrific ovation and the cheers had hardly died down before the final whistle went.

The famous 11ft side-to-side slope can be no excuse for the Middlesbrough stars.

Last season when the Blues were knocked out of the FA Cup in the second round by Peterborough United, the Fourth Division champions showed far more authority in their 3-1 win.

Outplayed

Perhaps it can be said that Wycombe have improved somewhat since then. The only consolation to be gained by the Teessiders — apart from a draw — was that even though they were outplayed for most of the match they never resorted to "foul" tactics.

Every one of the Blues team was a hero — indeed it was they who looked the First Division outfit.

Their chairman Jack Smethurst, confined to watching the match from overlooking Wycombe General Hospital, must have felt like forgetting his foot injury to rush down and greet his squad.

Less than two hours after leaving a fan-packed pitch, the team that really has put High Wycombe on the map learned they had been drawn with Middlesbrough in the fourth round to play another crack north-east team at home — Sunderland, FA Cup winners in 1973 and looking one of the

favourites for promotion this year from Division Two.

Teams
Wycombe: Maskell; Birdseye, Hand, Mead, Phillips, Reardon; Perrin, Kennedy, Searle, Hollifield, Horsman. Sub: Evans.

Middlesbrough: Platt; Craggs, Spragg, Souness, Boom, Madden, Brine, Hickton, Mills, Foggon, Armstrong. Sub: Willey.

Referee: A. Porter (Bolton).

Blues' full-back Garry Hand sticks close to John Hickton, witnessed by a worried Boro boss Jack Charlton.



Holding fractured wrist away from the action in a ballet-like pose, Micky Hollifield wins a midfield dual with Middlesbrough's John Hickton.

Foiled

At Loakes Park there was a typical cup-tie atmosphere generated by the 12,000 capacity crowd as the teams came out in bright sunshine — and the glare of cameras covering the match for London Weekend TV.

The home team were the first to get in the action when in the fourth minute full-back Paul Birdseye shot just past the post from a pass inside by Steve Perrin.

The match was evenly poised after the first quarter, the only threat from the Teessiders coming when Alan Foggon was foiled as John Maskell came out to smother his attempted shot.

Wycombe nearly went ahead in the 17th minute when keeper Jim Platt — under study to Pat Jennings in the Northern Ireland team — leapt to the far end of his goal to push away a Howard Kennedy corner under pressure from centre-forward Keith Searle.

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